CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL

Approved For Releasen 1909/09/00 ELICAN PROP & 200457 R002200 (1909) R5-90.

INFORMATONFRENTIALET

CD NO.

COUNTRY

Lebanon

SUBJECT

Struggle for the Control of the

Labor Unions

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A6a

DATE OF INFO 25X1X6

6 Jan 1949 DATE DISTR.

25X1A2g

NO. OF PAGES

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A2g

REPORT NO.

- As a result of meetings between senior officials of the Electric Company, including Richard Harfush; representatives of the employees; Tawfiq Faghali and members of the Council of the Union of Electric Company Workers who are his supporters, the Council of the Electrical Workers met on 1 December and adopted a resolution separating the Union from the Federation of Unions (Ittihad al-'Ummal).
- 2. This action, as well as the reduction of Communist influence in the Typesetters' Union, has alarmed Communist leaders, who fear that other unions may follow suit. The Communist Party distributed tracts on 3 December denouncing the Typesetters' and Bookbinders' Union and attacking the League of Unions (Jami'at al-'Ummal). The Central Committee of the Party has instructed communistic elements in the Electricians' Union to organize obstructive tactics to oppose any anti-communist measures which may come up for discussion in the Council.
- 3. On 28 November 1948 the Council of the Regie Workers' Union elected the following:
  - Representative Committee

Charles Shaykhani, Chairman Mikhael Sawaya, Vice Chairman Joseph Hillu, Secretary

b. Executive Committee

Jean Tuwayni, Chairman Na'im Hariri, Vice-Chairman Hafiz Mundir, Secretary Munir Alam-al-Din, Treasurer

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- 4. Farid Shihab, head of the Lebanese Surete, stated that the election of officers in the Regie Workers! Union was not a victory for either the Communists or their opponents, as there are both Communists and anti-Communists among the Union's leaders.
- 5. The Communist Party decided to turn the strike in principle, which the Woodworkers' Union had decided to call if Mustafa 'Aris was not released by the government, into an actual strike. George Furayhah headed a delegation sent to urge the factory workers to support an actual strike, but he found the majority of the workers indifferent to the proposed strike. This was an unexpected blow to the Communist Party, and is the third failure in its union policy, source states.